

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and Response comprises the Applicant's reply to the USPTO Office Action dated July 31, 2006 in the matter of present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 25-32 and 34-37 and allowed Claims 38 and 39. The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's recognition of the allowable subject matter of these latter claims.

The undersigned attorney and Examiner Jack Lavinder conducted a telephonic examiner's interview on October 2, 2006. The inside shape of the sliders of U.S. Patent No. 3,266,112 to Heckman and U.S. Patent No. 2,810,944 were briefly discussed, and the Examiner indicated that further wording needs to be considered to distinguish over these references. No wording was agreed to for the claims. The undersigned attorney sincerely appreciates the Examiner's participation in the foregoing telephone call.

With regard to the rejected claims, the Applicant has amended the wording of independent Claims 25 and 36 to clarify the claimed configuration of the slider. More particularly, the Applicant has modified the wording to claim the orientation of the lifting rib and the closure bar of the slider relative to a pull tab. Neither the cited references of Heckman or Sander disclose this combination of limitations, even if Heckman and Sander are turned 90 degrees. Accordingly, these independent claims are now allowable and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of Claims 25-32 and 34-37.

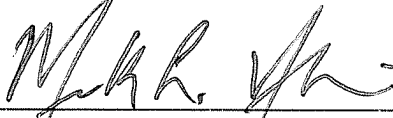
Other differences also exist between the claimed invention and the cited prior art. For example, the identical profile has significant economic advantages in manufacture of an article because only one profile needs to be manufactured. It is respectfully noted that such identical profiles are not disclosed by Heckman.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Application No. 10/803,834

Respectfully submitted,

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